

House Resolution No. 393

Whereas, Ilir Canhasi has attained considerable distinction as co-owner of the Felini restaurant in Columbia, Missouri; and

Whereas, Ilir Canhasi will enhance his already considerable record of achievement on February 9, 2004, when he receives a Celebration of Excellence 2004 Business Award from the Missouri Small Business Development Centers for his entrepreneurial leadership of family owned-and-operated Felini; and

Whereas, in business since November 1, 2003, Felini offers a Mediterranean-style selection of gustatory, hearty fare; and

Whereas, the Felini restaurant is located at 700 East Broadway in Columbia's historic downtown business district; and

Whereas, Ilir Canhasi operated a successful restaurant for ten years in Kosovo before political turmoil in that region of the world resulted in the outbreak of armed hostility and the loss of the family's business, home, and personal possessions; and

Whereas, after living in a refugee camp in Albania, Ilir Canhasi moved his family to Mexico, Missouri, to live with a relative, to work in a local factory, and to save money to fulfill the dream of reopening the Felini restaurant in his adopted homeland; and

Whereas, today's Felini employs eight people and is expected to generate approximately \$400,000 in annual sales; and

Whereas, Ilir Canhasi received assistance in wisely using his \$80,000 personal investment and running his mid-Missouri business from the Missouri Business Development Program, the interrelated Columbia Small Business Development Center, and counselors Nick Arends and Mike Schrader:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the well-deserved selection of Ilir Canhasi for a Celebration of Excellence 2004 Business Award from the Missouri Small Business Development Centers and to convey to him this legislative body's heartiest best wishes for continued success as the co-owner of Felini; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Ilir Canhasi of Columbia, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Vicky Riback Wilson
District No. 25

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 393, adopted February 4, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker